

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed Month October 20, 2003, claims 3 and 17 have been cancelled, claims 1, 4, 14, 15 and 18 have been amended. No claim has been newly added. Accordingly. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 14-16, 18 and 19 are now active in this application, of which claims 1, 4, 14, 15 and 18 are independent. The Office Action indicates that claims 4, 14 and 18 are allowable but objected to for being dependent from rejected base claims.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments. Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5 and 15-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,926,235 issued to Han, *et al.* ("Han") in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,128,786 issued to Yanagisawa ("Yanagisawa"), and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,956,103 issued to Ishiguro ("Ishiguro"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In this response, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 3 and 17, respectively. Amended independent claim 1 further recites "said black matrix being mesh-shaped with opening portions at pixel areas and *comprising a plurality of separated portions*". Independent claim 15, which is a process claim, also recite substantially the same.

In this regard, in the Office Action, the Examiner asserted “Yanagisawa’s black matrix [see Figs. 4, 6-9] is separated into a plurality of portions, so claims 3 and 17 are also unpatentable” (Office Action, page 5). Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

As shown in Figs. 4 and 5, Yanagisawa shows a black matrix 16 formed to block the gap between the vertically and horizontally-arranged scanning and signal electrodes 13 and 14. The gaps between two neighboring electrodes 13 and 14 is very narrow compared to the width of the electrodes, and the black matrix is formed to selectively block the gaps. Also, the black matrix 16 is formed not to block the major portion of each electrode since the light is transmitted through each electrode. This is because the passive matrix LCD structure does not have a pixel electrode formed between two neighboring scanning electrodes 13 or signal electrodes 14.

The claimed invention is directed to an active matrix LCD structure, in which “crossing over the gate lines to define the pixel areas” as recite in claim 1. As commonly known, in an active matrix LCD device, each pixel area is wider than the data and gate lines and should not be blocked. If the pixel area is blocked by a black matrix, the active-matrix LCD would not display any image. Thus, the asserted combination of Han or Ishiguro with Yanagisawa’s black matrix would render the active matrix LCD device described in Han and Ishiguro inoperable. Thus, it is submitted that there is no motivation for combining the Yanagisawa’s black matrix with the active matrix LCD structure shown in Han and Ishiguro.

For these reasons, it is submitted that independent claims 1 and 15 are patentable over the asserted combination of Han, Yanagisawa and Ishiguro. Claims 2, 5 and 16 that are dependent from claims 1 and 15 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 1, 2, 5, 15 and 16 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 6 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Han in view of Yanagisawa, further in view of Ishiguro, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,297,862 to Murade (“Murade”) . This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 19 ultimately stem from independent claims 1 and 15, respectively. As previously mentioned, claims 1 and 15 have been amended and are now believed to be patentable over Han, Yanagisawa and Ishiguro. For example, there is no motivation to combine the black matrix structure shown in Yanagisawa with the active matrix LCD structure shown in Han and Ishiguro since the asserted modification would render the active matrix LCD device unsatisfactory to their intended purposes, which is displaying an image.

Murade is directed to forming the second light shielding film to prevent the surface of the first light shielding film from direct exposure to light. However, Murade does not disclose a black matrix “comprising a plurality of separated portions” as recited in claims 1 and 15. Murade does not cure the deficiency from Han, Yanagisawa and Ishiguro. Especially, Murade does not provide any motivation to combine the black matrix for the passive matrix LCD structure described in Yanagisawa with the active matrix LCD structure described in Han and Ishiguro.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 15 are still patentable over Han, Yanagisawa, Ishiguro and Murade. Claims 6 and 19 that are dependent from claims 1 and 15 would be also patentable at least for the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 6 and 19 be withdrawn.

Other Matters

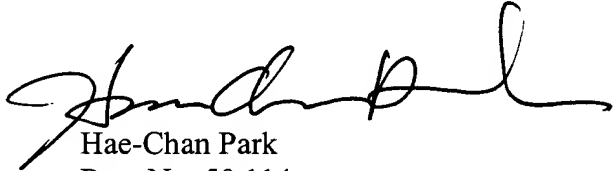
In this response, allowable dependent claims 4, 14 and 18 have been amended to present in independent form.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 14-16, 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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